



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

May 28, 2020

Dear Class of 2020:

To all of the seniors in the Graduating Class of 2020 in Broward and Palm Beach counties, I write with a deep sense of pride in your academic achievements and to extend a warm congratulations on your graduation. As schools shut down and classes moved online, so many of you and your peers remained optimistic as you were faced with an entirely new normal. Despite these adverse circumstances, you have come together in many innovative, creative, and safe ways to remain connected and celebrate your considerable accomplishments. From drive-up graduation ceremonies to virtual senior events like prom, you and your peers, our future leaders, have united and inspired communities across our nation.

I have received letters from some of you expressing feelings of “dread and disappointment.” You told me that you feel “brushed aside” and your “issues have been ignored.” This is entirely understandable. You have worked tirelessly for years, visualizing what it would be like to walk across the stage and receive your diploma. Your friends, family, and classmates in the audience, cheering you on as you celebrate the culmination of your hard work and dedication. This pandemic has robbed you of that unique experience. Yet, the resilience, perseverance, and work ethic that the entire Class of 2020 has shown in response to these unprecedented and challenging times can be described as nothing short of inspiring and exceptional.

I join your teachers, counselors, parents, and the entire Palm Beach and Broward communities in awe of your hard work, commitment, and resilience. I am so very proud of all of you and know that you will carry these strengths with you as you continue to pursue your studies, careers, and the many opportunities that lie ahead. Although this important milestone may look far different from how you envisioned it, your achievements only shine brighter in light of the circumstances. You persevered! You did it! Congratulations to each and every graduating senior! I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors and know that you are the future leaders of tomorrow. With warm personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress